

Upon the foregoing donation Mr. McDougall makes the following remarks :—

Mr. Christie, in his letter, refers to poor children: of these poor outcasts, we have always had more or less,—sometimes eight or ten; at present we have only six. You cannot turn them away from your door; and what has proved both to my wife and myself that we ought to bear this burden is, we have never been without something to give them to eat; even now, when

the very worst has come upon the country, we expect to rub through without coming to starvation. I am going to order a stove and pipes for Woodville Church, relying on the Board for a grant of fifty dollars: the freight will be raised amongst ourselves. Please do not forget the poor Stoneys.

From the Rev. G. McDougall, dated Victoria, March 1st, 1871.

UNCERTAINTY OF DISEASE AND COMMERCE.

The medical gentleman sent up by the "Board of Health," is now returning to Red River, giving us an extra opportunity for communicating with the frontier world.

There have been very few cases of small-pox since the doctor's arrival. Whether the disease has exhausted itself, or whether it will break out afresh in the spring, are questions anxiously asked by many. That the whole country is infected, there is no doubt, and it is beyond the powers of man to disinfect an Indian community. Our hope is, that the disease being so violent last summer, and in most communities very few escaped the contagion, we may now be relieved from its further ravages. Our consolation is, we are in the hands of a God who will order all things right.

As regards the business of the country, we are placed in a difficult position; according to the Governor's proclamation, nothing in the shape of trade can be exported. The Hudson's Bay Company, in order to meet the wants of the poor Indians, have, at much sacrifice, continued their business. To withhold from the natives ammunition and clothing, would have been death to them: What the merchant will do with the pelts taken in return for these things, is now a question.

RELIGIOUS PROSPERITY.

Notwithstanding all adverse circumstances, our work is progressing encouragingly. February the 5th, Chief

Factor Wm. J. Christie spent the Sabbath at Victoria; visited our Sabbath-school; and, in a very feeling manner, addressed the scholars. Next morning, as Mr. Christie and Mr. Hardisty were about to start for Lac La Biche, a letter was handed me from the former, which, upon opening, I found to be one of condolence, and also expressions of deep interest in, and kind sympathy for the cause of Missions. Enclosed were two fifty dollar checks,—one for the White Fish Lake School, and one for Victoria. This liberal donation was most gratefully received, but the appropriation made by the Board, though ample for other lands, will scarcely cover the board bill of a teacher in the Saskatchewan.

SCHOOL EXAMINATION.

Thursday, the 9th, accompanied by my son, I met Mr. Christie and the Company's officers at White Fish Lake. The school examination, which occupied the whole day, was most satisfactory; the exercises were commenced by Bro. Steinhauer presenting a very appropriate address to the Chief Factor; then the young Crees were called upon to perform their part, their attainments in reading, writing and spelling, geography, arithmetic, and Bible history, were very creditable, so much so, that the gentlemen present expressed themselves as agreeably surprised at the proficiency manifested by these native children. Great credit is due to Mr. Ira Snyder, their teacher. Our pious young brother labors hard for the spiritual good, as well as the mental improvement, of his large school. Our